NEGRO WELFARE LEAGUE OF

NEW JERSEY -

Clipping taken from the Newark Evening News:-

Funds Are Required for Negro Welfare Building

League Members Are Desirous of Raising $10,000 Before August 1.

Headquarters for Social Work

Members of the Negro Welfare League are bending their efforts toward raising $10,000 before the first of August. This sum is for the immediate purchase of an adequate building to be used as headquarters for negro social work in this city, Newark's negro population having about doubled itself in the last two years.

The sum of $1,500 already has been raised as a nucleus for the fund, William M. Ashby, executive secretary of the league, announced today. The first person to subscribe was Mrs. Felix Fuld, who contributed $500. The Butterworth-Judson Corporation gave a like amount and Louis Bamberger also gave $500. In the next fortnight all of the city's leading business houses, public institutions and individuals will be asked to contribute. It is expected that a considerable part of the total will be raised by league members, of whom about 150 are women.

"Newark's growth as a war-time industrial center," said Mr. Ashby, "has brought thousands of negroes here, most of them from the South, unfamiliar with city life and city problems. The increase of men workers alone approximates 10,000, the majority of whom live in Newark. Many of these have brought their wives and children. Women also are being swept along on this great industrial wave, more than a thousand already being employed in Newark shops and factories.

"Accompanying this great social and industrial change are the very perplexing evils which invariably follow great social changes. Two demoralizing effects are immediately observable in the cases of women going into factories; the increase in juvenile crime and the number of unmarried mothers. The fact that in Newark there is no negro welfare center; no negro Young Men's or Young Women's Christian Association, and no Neighborhood House, makes the situation extremely difficult to handle.

"A building in which Newark's negro activities might, in a measure, center will do much toward ameliorating this problem. It is planned to secure a site as near the center of the negro population as possible. We have four sites in view, but have made no decision as yet. We plan to use part of the building as a home for working girls."

The Phyllis Wheatley Club, a group of women organized under the direction of Miss Virginia Robinson, a well-known Newark worker, who is now engaged in welfare work at Camp Dodge, Des Moines, Ia., has raised nearly $1,000, to be used to help furnish the building's rooms. Mrs. E. P. Shrubey is now president of this club.

If the entire $10,000 is raised by August 1 it is the league's plan to have the building bought, furnished and opened to the public by the first of September. Among its features will be an employment department, with an industrial secretary, who will devote his time to making better industrial opportunities for negroes and supplying both industries and families with workers. This department will co-operate with the Federal-State-Municipal Employment Bureau.

Child and family welfare work will be another important feature of th league's activities, and an additiona welfare worker will be secured for social work among negro girls and women employed in factories. Clubs for both adults and young girls and boys will be formed, the idea being to make the league building the center of healthful, helpful recreation and advancement for all Newark negroes.

It is the plan of the committee in charge to co-operate fully with the Board of Education, Board of Health, Employment Bureau and with private agencies that are engaged in similar enterprises. Periodic investigation of the negroes to ascertain knowledge of their development along all lines will be made. James P. Dusenberry of this city is treasurer of the building fund.